What are my Reading Choices?
Enclosed is your Summer Reading List. These books have been selected by your librarians and include a variety of genres and subjects.

5th Grade
You should choose at least **THREE** titles from this list to read. We believe reading is a lifelong habit that must be nurtured, even in the summer. (Of course, we hope you will read many more than three books over the summer!) **In the Fall, your teachers will ask you to write about your three selections.**

6th Grade
**6th Grade Required Reading:**

*Chew On This: Everything You Don’t Want to Know About Fast Food* by Eric Schlosser & Charles Wilson
[Non-Fiction]
A look at fast food, what’s in it, how it’s made, and what it does to our bodies.

Plan on reading this book as close to September as possible because it will be discussed in your Health class when you return to school.

In addition to the required reading, you should choose at least **TWO** titles from this list to read. **In the Fall, your teachers will ask you to write about your two selections.**

You will find many of these books at Packer’s Book Fair May 6th-May 8th. Your local library, bookstore, or ebook store is likely to carry the other titles. Enjoy your Summer and Happy Reading!

Mrs. Dorfman, Librarian
Mr. Parson, Library Department Head
New & Noteworthy

**The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier**
[Adventure/Ghost Story]
Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.

**El Deafo by Cece Bell**
[Graphic Novel/Memoir]
A graphic novel memoir of author/illustrator Cece Bell who grew up hearing impaired

**Caminar by Skila Brown**
[Historical Fiction in Verse]
In 1981 with the arrival of soldiers in his Guatemalan village, Carlos must flee and join a band of guerillas who head to the mountains where his grandmother lives to warn her about the soldiers.

**Under the Egg by Laura Max Fitzgerald**
[Mystery]
Her grandfather’s dying words lead thirteen-year-old Theodora Tenpenny to a valuable, hidden painting she fears may be stolen, but it is her search for answers in her Greenwich Village neighborhood that brings a real treasure.

**Mark of the Dragonfly by Jaleigh Johnson**
[Fantasy]
Since her father's death in a factory in the Dragonfly territories, thirteen-year-old Piper has eked out a living as a scrapper in Merrow Kingdom, but the arrival of a mysterious girl sends her on a dangerous journey to distant lands.
Masterminds by Gordon Korman
[Science Fiction]
A group of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history for a sociological experiment.

The Paper Cowboy by Kristin Levine
[Historical Fiction]
In a small town near Chicago in 1953, twelve-year-old Tommy faces escalating problems at home, among his Catholic school friends, and with the threat of a communist living nearby, but taking over his hospitalized sister’s paper route introduces him to neighbors who he comes to rely on for help.

Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin
[Realistic Fiction]
Struggling with Asperger’s syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet.

Greenglass House by Kate Milford
[Mystery/Fantasy]
At Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing, but soon guests are arriving with strange stories about the house that send Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, on an adventure.

The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney
[Novel in Verse]
After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder.
Gracefully Grayson by Ami Polonsky
[Realistic Fiction]
Grayson, a transgender twelve-year-old, learns to accept her true identity and share it with the world.

Red Butterfly by A.L. Sonnichsen
[Realistic Fiction in Verse]
In China, a foundling girl with a deformed hand raised in secret by an American woman must navigate China’s strict adoption system when she is torn away from the only family she has ever known.

Sisters by Raina Telgemeier
[Graphic Novel/Memoir]
Raina Telgemeier shares the story of her relationship with her younger sister.
(Smile)

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
(Memoir in Verse)
The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.

Fiction & Non-Fiction

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
[Realistic Fiction in Verse]
Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.
George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and won the Revolutionary War by Thomas B. Allen
[Non-Fiction]
Examines how George Washington used espionage during the American Revolutionary War, discussing the Culper Ring, the Sons of Liberty, codes, ciphers, and more.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
[Realistic Fiction in Verse]
When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Hold Fast by Blue Balliet
[Realistic Fiction]
On a cold winter day in Chicago, Early’s father disappeared, and now she, her mother and her brother have been forced to flee their apartment and join the ranks of the homeless—and it is up to Early to hold her family together and solve the mystery surrounding her father.

Doll Bones by Holly Black
[Adventure Fiction/Ghost Story]
Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

Cosmic by Frank Boyce
[Science Fiction]
Twelve-year-old Liam, who looks like he is thirty and is tired of being treated like he is older than he actually is, decides he is going to pose as the adult chaperone on the first spaceship to take civilians into space, but when he ends up in outer space with a group of kids and no adult supervision, he must think fast to make things right.
Jefferson’s Sons: A Founding Father’s Secret Children by Kimberly Bradley  
[Historical Fiction]  
A fictionalized look at the last twenty years of Thomas Jefferson’s life at Monticello through the eyes of three of his slaves, including two who were his sons by his slave, Sally Hemings.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd  
[Mystery]  
When Ted and Kat’s cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper  
[Realistic Fiction]  
Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series by John Feinstein  
[Mystery]  
While covering the World Series, teen reporters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol uncover some inconsistencies in the life story of a popular, new pitcher and begin to investigate.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke  
[Mystery/Fantasy]  
Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman  
[Fantasy]  
The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.
Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos
[Realistic Fiction]
In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

(From Norvelt to Nowhere)

Spy School by Stuart Gibbs
[Mystery]
Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

(Spy Camp, Evil Spy School)

Counting by 7s by Holly Sloan Goldberg
[Realistic Fiction]
Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Chomp by Carl Hiaasen
[Realistic/Adventure Fiction]
The difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where they were filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, and Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him, but they must avoid Tuna's gun-happy father.

Totally Joe by James Howe
[Realistic Fiction]
As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphabiography, and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager.

(Companion to Misfits)
The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata
[Realistic Fiction]
Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

See You at Harry’s by Johanna Knowles
[Realistic Fiction]
Twelve-year-old Fern feels invisible in her family, where grumpy eighteen-year-old Sarah is working at the family restaurant, fourteen-year-old Holden is struggling with school bullies and his emerging homosexuality, and adorable, three-year-old Charlie is always the center of attention, and when tragedy strikes, the fragile bond holding the family together is stretched almost to the breaking point.

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
[Historical Fiction in Verse]
Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
[Fantasy/Folklore]
Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

The Giver by Lois Lowry
[Science Fiction]
Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other. He then learns the terrible truth about the Community.

(Gathering Blue, Messenger, Son)
A Snicker of Magic by Natalie Lloyd  
[Fantasy]
The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic--but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend Jonah the Beedle she hopes to bring the magic back.

Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah  
[Autobiography]
The author tells the story of her painful childhood in China where she lived until the age of fourteen with her father, stepmother, and siblings, all of whom considered her bad luck because her mother died shortly after giving birth to her.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio  
[Realistic Fiction]
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

West of the Moon by Margi Preus
[Historical Fiction/Fantasy]
In nineteenth-century Norway, fourteen-year-old Astri, whose aunt has sold her to a mean goatherder, dreams of joining her father in America.

The True Meaning of Smekday by Adam Rex  
[Science Fiction]
Twelve-year-old Gratuity "Tip" Tucci is left to fend for herself after Earth is colonized by aliens and her mother is abducted, and must try to stop another alien invasion with only the help of a cat named Pig and an alien named J. Lo.

Hurt Go Happy by Ginny Rorby  
[Realistic Fiction]
Thirteen-year-old Joey Willis has been deaf since age six, but her mother has refused to let her learn sign language, leaving Joey struggling to connect with those around her until she meets Dr.
Charles Mansell and his baby chimpanzee, who secretly teach
Joey how to sign.

**Splendors & Glooms by Laura Amy Schlitz**
*Historical Fiction/Fantasy Fiction*
When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

**The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt**
*Historical Fiction*
During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

**The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny and the Fight for Civil Rights by Steve Sheinkin**
*Non-Fiction*
Describes the fifty black sailors who refused to work in unsafe and unfair conditions after an explosion in Port Chicago killed 320 servicemen, and how the incident influenced civil rights.

**The Only Ones by Aaron Starmer**
*Science Fiction*
After leading a solitary existence on an island, thirteen-year-old Martin discovers a village filled with children who live without adults after their families and friends disappeared one afternoon, but after meeting a mysterious boy who can talk to animals Martin thinks he can find a way to reunite the children with their families.

**When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead**
*Historical Fiction/Science Fiction/Mystery*
As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The $20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.
One Came Home by Amy Timberlake
[Historical Fiction]
In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha, presumed dead when remains are found wearing the dress she was last seen in, and before the end of the year gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters.

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage
[Mystery]
Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a cafe and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder. (Ghosts of Tupelo Landing)

The Paperboy by Vince Vawter
[Historical Fiction]
When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
[Historical Fiction]
In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp (P.S. Be Eleven, Gone Crazy in Alabama)

Classics

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
[Realistic Fiction]
Originally published in 1911. Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.
Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes  
[Historical Fiction]  
After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle  
[Science Fiction]  
Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London  
[Adventure Fiction]  
Jack London's classic tale tracing Buck's entry into the wild and survival among the wolves.

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery  
[Realistic Fiction]  
Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.  
(Anne of Avonlea, Anne of the Island, Anne of Windy Poplars, Anne's House of Dreams, Anne of Ingleside, Rainbow Valley, Rilla of Ingleside)

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell  
[Realistic/Adventure Fiction]  
Records the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin  
[Mystery]  
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
[Adventure Fiction]
While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of an inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune.

The Hobbit or There and Back Again by J.R.R. Tolkien
[Fantasy]
Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit who only wanted to be left alone, is drawn by a wizard and a band of homeless dwarves into a quest where he confronts evil orcs, savage wolves, and the great dragon, Smaug the Magnificent.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
[Adventure Fiction]
The adventures of a mischievous young boy and his friends growing up in a Mississippi River town in the nineteenth century.

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
[Science Fiction]
Jules Verne's classic nineteenth-century novel about the adventures of the mysterious Captain Nemo and his unusual submarine.